

Curriculum Vitae

Donna Benefield

EXPERT WITNESS - LITIGATION:

- **1987 – Expert Witness:** Donna Benefield testified as an expert witness for the Plaintiff regarding practices used by trainers to sore Tennessee Walking Horses in American Horse Protection Association, Inc. vs. Lyng (U.S.D.A.), 812 F. 2d 1 D.C. Cir. (1987) action brought to force the USDA into rule making to ban all devices reasonably capable of producing soreness. A Summary Judgment was granted in favor of Plaintiffs by the District Court in 1988, but the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in 1990 vacated the lower court's ruling and remanded it to the lower court for further proceedings.

ENFORCEMENT OF HORSE PROTECTION ACT:

- **2010 - Expert to Show, Inc.** at 2010 Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration. Donna Benefield was hired by Show, Inc., to work as a liaison expert between Show, Inc., and U.S.D.A. regarding the horse inspections conducted by U.S.D.A VMOs and Show, Inc. DQPs for the entire duration of the 2010 National Walking Horse Celebration, August 25 – September 4, 2010.
- **2010 to present** – Vice President of Inspectors - International Walking Horse Association (Horse Industry Organization) HIO.
- **2008 – 2010** Represented the Horse Protection Commission (USDA certified Horse Industry Organization) at all USDA/HIO meetings writing all the USDA/HIO Operating Plans.
- **2007** - Supervisor of DQPs – Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association National Futurity at Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration.
- **1999 - 2007** Represented the sound horse anti-soring faction in negotiations with industry lobbyist Niels Holch, former Chief of Staff to Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, in editing the proposed 1999 – 2007 Horse Protection Act Operating

Plans, which set out APHIS' plan for implementation and Enforcement of the Horse Protection Act.

- **1997 - 2010** Co-Founder and Administrative Director, Horse Protection Commission, Inc. (Horse Industry Organization) HIO certified by the United States Department of Agriculture. Trained, licensed, managed and supervised 45 DQPs at horse shows in Tennessee, Texas, Kentucky, California, Mississippi, Oregon, Arkansas, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, North Carolina, Colorado, Utah, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Michigan, Maryland and Nevada.
- **Administrative Director** of the International Plantation Walking Horse Assoc. HIO, DQP Program for three years in early 1990s.
- **1987 to present** - Licensed DQP (Designated Qualified Person) Have personally checked thousands of horses for compliance with the Horse Protection Act.
- Attended more than 150 meetings at USDA headquarters outside Washington, D.C., and on Capitol Hill with regard to hearings and meetings concerning regulations and enforcement of the Horse Protection Act.

Tennessee Walking Horse Industry Leadership Positions

- President of the National Plantation Walking Horse Association in the late 1980's.
- Vice President of the National Plantation Walking Horse Association for 7 years in the 1980's.
- Late 1980's-USDA/HIO representative for the California Horsemen's Association. An organization having over 30,000 members.
- Director representing California - Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association.
- Member, Enforcement Committee, Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association.
- California Director for National Walking Horse Association, late 1990's.

Equine Clinics:

- 2012 - Speaker – “Bitting the Horse” – Gary Lane Midwest Trail Riding Clinic For Training the Gaited Horse: From The Rail To The Trail, Hoover, Indiana.
- 2009 – Sound Horse Conference - speaker – “Truth About Ending Soring.” Paramount Plaza Hotel, Gainesville, FL
- 2008 – Sound Horse Conference – Speaker – “Challenges To Enforcement Of The Horse Protection Act and Soring of Tennessee Walking Horse in the Tennessee Walking Horse” industry, and “Pressure Shoeing of the Tennessee Walking Horse”, at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbus, Ohio.
- 1999 - Conducted a seminar on the Soring of Tennessee Walking Horses seminar with Dr. Larry Connelly, DVM, equine practitioner, and co-founder of the Horse Protection Commission, Inc., for veterinary interns at Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center at Virginia Tech University in Leesburg, Virginia in 1999.
- 1987 Approximate- Consultant and coordinator – Current Affairs, TWH expose’ which dealt with the soring and corruption of the Tennessee Walking Horse.
- 1986 Consultant and coordinator – CNN: Special Assignment, “They Sore Horses, Don’t They?” expose’ which dealt with the soring and corruption of the Tennessee Walking Horse.

EXHIBITOR:

- 1982 Plantation Pleasure World Grand Champion owned and trained by Donna Benefield. Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration
- 1982 Model World Champion Tennessee Walking Horse owned and trained by Donna Benefield. Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration
- 1993 4th Place, Western Pleasure. Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration

EQUINE EXPERIENCE:

Apprenticed under legendary Hollywood Horse Trainer, Glenn Randall – MGM, Warner Brothers, 20th Century Fox, Paramount Studios, Burbank Studio, Columbia Studios, Los Angeles, Burbank, and Hollywood, California

Movie credits:

Ben-Hur
The Black Stallion/The Black Stallion Returns
Westworld
How the West Was Won
Zorro
Roy Rogers movies/TV series – Trigger
Gene Autry movies/TV series – Champion
Associated with Mr. Randall from 1970 - 1993

PROFESSIONAL AND WORK EXPERIENCE:

- 1973 – 2007 Owner of an Emmy Award winning film studio in California, a post production studio, a recording stage and studio.
Television commercials
Television post production for Walt Disney Saturday Morning TV.

Sound Director for TV Series, “Grizzly Adams”

Television postproduction for TV series and feature films such as:

- “Sinatra” - mini series
 - “Cagney and Lacey” – TV series
 - “The Trials of Rosie O’Neill” – TV series
 - “Christy” - TV series
 - Emmy Nominated – “Eleanor and Franklin – The White House Years”
 - Emmy Nominated – “Crazy Horse”
 - Emmy Nominated – “21 Hours At Munich”
 - 1988 Emmy Award for “Murder of Mary Fagan” with Jack Lemon
 - 1990 Emmy Award – “Duck Tales” for Walt Disney Studios
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